

Hurricane Harvey 2017 8/25/2017 – 1600 Update

NOAA Hurricane Status

As of 1500 CDT, Harvey is a Category 3 Hurricane with sustained winds of 120 mph. The forecast for landfall on the middle Texas coast is tonight or early Saturday. Harvey is then likely to meander near or just inland of the middle Texas coast through the weekend.

Current sustained winds at Corpus Christi are near 53 mph with gusts up to 64 mph. Hurricaneforce winds, 75 mph and greater, extend outward up to 35 miles from the center, and tropicalstorm-force winds extend outward up to 140 miles.

Currently mandatory evacuations are in place for eight counties and seven cities along the Texas coast. Voluntary evacuations are in place for two counties and sixteen cities.

Refineries/Fuel Waivers

Based on information from the Department of Energy, 6 refineries are currently shuttered. The daily capacity shuttered is 516 thousand barrels. The State/EPA Emergency Fuel Waiver Team will continue to have coordination calls throughout the weekend.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has sent a temporary fuel waiver request to EPA Administrator Pruitt and the Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, Larry Starfield. The request is for a temporary fuel waver for Reformulated Gasoline, Low Reid Vapor Pressure, and Texas Low-Emission Diesel fuel requirements for the 30 counties declared by the Governor of the State of Texas.

State/Federal Cooperation

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has activated EPA under its Emergency Support Function (ESF) 10 responsibilities. An On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) has deployed to the FEMA Regional Response Center in Denton, Texas and another OSC has deployed to the State of Texas Operations Center in Austin, Texas and is co-located with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

Two EPA contractors deployed to Robstown, Texas to support this request but have now moved to San Antonio until after the Hurricane makes landfall.

